



TOWN OF ARLINGTON

730 Massachusetts Ave.
Arlington, MA 02476
781-316-3012

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Arlington Conservation Commission

Minutes

April 4, 2019

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Commission Members Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Charles Tirone, Mike Nonni, Susan Chapnick, and Pam Heidell; Associate Commissioner Cathy Garnett; and Conservation Agent Emily Sullivan. Commissioner Curt Connors was absent. Also present were Ben Wanhum, Mike Tyrrell, Jon Bonsall, Mary Trudeau, Peter Musial, and Dan Klebanov.

Administrative

03/07/2019 Meeting Minutes

The Commission discussed edits to the draft minutes. C. Tirone motioned to approve the minutes as edited, M. Nonni seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

Invasives Species ID and Management Training

E. Sullivan recommended that the Commission sponsor, through the Lands Stewards Fund, an invasive species identification, removal, and disposal training for the Land Stewards and other interested groups and residents. E. Sullivan informed the Commission that Mass Audubon offers a full-day training with outdoor and indoor classroom components for \$600. The training length and format is flexible, and will change the cost of the training. DCR offers a 2-3 hour training during business hours and weekday evenings at no cost. E. Sullivan recommended the Mass Audubon training because of the indoor and outdoor classroom components and the customization of the training for Arlington's specific invasive issues.

P. Heidell noted that the DCR training would cover all the invasive management issues that Arlington is experiencing, and that the DCR is very well-equipped to facilitate the training. N. Stevens asked whether the Mass Audubon could do a half-day training instead and what that cost would be. N. Stevens also stated that the Land Stewards could request trainings from both Mass Audubon and DCR. E. Sullivan will reach out to Mass Audubon about a half-day training and poll the Land Stewards on their preferences.

Conditions Master List

E. Sullivan reminded the Commission to send her electronic revisions of the list of special conditions that the Commission applies to permitted projects. The Commission discussed

revisions and additions to the master list, and will send their feedback to E. Sullivan electronically.

Spring Newsletter

E. Sullivan asked the Commission if they wanted to publish a Spring Newsletter. S. Chapnick volunteered to work with E. Sullivan to create a newsletter that can be available during EcoWeek (April 23-28, 2019).

Spring Clean-Up Event

E. Sullivan summarized that the Spring Clean-Up Event will be held on Sunday, 4/28 from 9am-12pm. The clean-up will start at Hills Hill and then move to Symmes Woods. The Arlington Land Stewards, Highrock Church parishioners, and other interested residents will participate.

C. Garnett cautioned that there is a lot of poison ivy at Symmes Woods. D. White offered to provide gloves and trash-pickers for the event.

Mystic Restoration Planting Event

E. Sullivan summarized that the planting event with two third grade classrooms from the Thompson Elementary School is scheduled for Tuesday, 4/23 from 10-11am. S. Chapnick, M. Nonni, and E. Sullivan will facilitate the event. Other Commissioners are encouraged to attend if they are available.

Hurd Field Vegetation

The Department of Public Works would like to clean-up the Mill Brook behind Hurd Field, abutting Colonial Village. The clean-up would entail removing invasive vegetation growing on top of the brook's channelized wall. The Commission agreed that this work does not require a permit because the vegetation is invasive. C. Tirone suggested that Public Works submit a written summary of the work for the Commission's records. E. Sullivan will request the written summary and inform Public Works that they can conduct the vegetation removal.

Courtesy Session: J-1 Algonquin Pipeline Work

M. Tyrrell from Enbridge summarized the six areas of Algonquin pipeline that is scheduled for anomaly investigation work along Sunnyside Ave and Lafayette Street. To investigate each of the anomalies, a section of pipe will be exposed using an excavator to determine the condition of the pipeline and coating. Remedial measures may include sandblasting and recoating the pipeline, installing a reinforcement sleeve, or replacing a section of pipe. In order to inspect and repair the anomalies located along the J-1, up to 40 linear feet of pipe will be excavated and exposed at each location. Three sections of pipe will be replaced on the J-1 pipeline.

Enbridge's Erosion and Sediment Control Plan was designed to provide specifications for the installation and implementation of soil erosion and sediment control measures while permitting adequate flexibility to use the most appropriate measures based on site-specific conditions. The work will have a 30-foot work limit and will occur in sites vegetated with Japanese Knotweed, phragmites, and lawn. All knotweed and phragmites will be mowed and placed in

locations with pre-existing knotweed and phragmites respectively. The contractor will scrape equipment of all phragmites before moving locations so as to not spread the invasives. Top soils from the phragmites areas will be segregated and placed back on site to prevent cross-contamination. There are no trees in or around the six sites where work is going to be performed.

Each site will take 3-4 days to assess, with limited stockpiling. The sites will be restored back to original topography once the work is completed. The sites will be inspected by environmental inspectors regularly. Any dewatering will be through felt style filter bags placed within Algoquin's easement in vegetated area.

P. Heidell asked if there will be hydrostatic testing of the new pipe segments. Pipes are pre-hydro tested. M. Tyrrell confirmed that the new pipe sections are pre-tested prior to being s are pre-hydro tested so no wastewater is brought to the site. C. Tirone asked about contractor training. M. Tyrrell explained that prior to every construction project, Enbridge conducts a tailgate training to train supervisors and the crew before mobilization. Additionally, this contractor is well-experienced.

Working Session (continued from 2/28/2019): 47 Spy Pond Lane, Lot 1/A

M. Trudeau was present for the Applicant. The Commission reviewed the documents they received from S. Seaver and M. Trudeau since the 3/21/2019 working session, including communication with Town Engineer W. Chouinard in regards to whether the Town would maintain a stormwater unit in Kelwyn Manor. M. Trudeau stated that according to W. Chouinard, the Town does not have an easement for drainage in this area of Kelwyn Manor. W. Chouinard proposed a third location for the stormwater unit, which is a size in the middle of the of the three choices proposed thus far. This third location is at the intersection of Princeton Road and Alfred Road and would service four streets. This option is also very close to 47 Spy Pond Lane Lot 1/A. M. Trudeau will get this option sized and priced out. M. Trudeau also verified that the larger, second option considered at the intersection of Spy Pond Parkway and Roanoke Road would cost \$70k (for the unit and installation).

M. Trudeau addressed P. Heidell's question from last working session regarding the amount of finished space in the proposed structure. M. Trudeau stated that the finished space was just under 3,900 square feet. P. Heidell noted that she had also questioned why the house's intrusion in the AURA cannot be decreased further. C. Garnett asked how this structure compares to the structure S. Seaver built at 12 Clyde Terrace. M. Trudeau did not know.

S. Chapnick acknowledged the various mitigation efforts proposed for this site and questioned whether the proposed size of the structure is impeding the Resource Area given the mitigation efforts. P. Heidell stated that the local regulation's language regarding reasonable alternatives was driving her consideration of structure size.

C. Tirone noted that the structure's contribution to heat island effect and impact on neighboring properties' stormwater is relevant.

M. Trudeau reminded the Commission that concern over the structure size is not a valid reason for permit denial, but that the Commission needed to reference performance standards.

N. Stevens and S. Chapnick expressed some unease with how much the Commission has discussed structure size and square footage, which is more of a zoning issue not a conservation issue.

N. Stevens asked if the structure will shade the proposed backyard mitigation buffer and deter vegetation growth. This is a valid performance standard that the Commission should relate to the proposal. He recalled from prior working sessions that the orientation of the house will allow sun on the lot in the mornings.

C. Garnett cautioned the Commission about any precedent regarding the value of mitigation that would be set with this project. S. Chapnick responded that this proposal only extends 25-feet into the Resource Area and that the Commission has approved projects that extend farther into Resource Areas. Additionally, this proposal has more onsite and offsite mitigation when compared to past proposals and approved projects.

Public comments

P. Musial and D. Klebanov expressed that this proposal will exploit a natural resource area. D. Klebanov also stated that the proposal will make \$1 million in profit and it is only proposing \$50k in mitigation efforts.

S. Chapnick stated that this lot is not empty or undeveloped, it is considered previously disturbed. It has existing impervious surface is not considered habitat. The Wetlands Regulations values undeveloped and developed land differently. C. Tirone continued that the lot is currently a driveway and lawn, and lawn is not very valuable habitat.

C. Tirone asked whether the windows would reflect sun onto Spy Pond. M. Trudeau will ask S. Seaver if the window design reflects light onto the pond.

M. Trudeau requested that the working session be continued to the 4/25/2019 Conservation Commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:46pm.

The Conservation Commission's next meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 25th, 2019 at 7:30pm in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Sullivan